

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and the associated certified copy of the priority application as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(b).

Claims 1 and 3-19 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 3-15 are subject to examination and claims 16-19 have been withdrawn from examination. Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 11-15 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled.

In item 5 on page 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 1 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,610,801 to Begis (hereinafter Begis) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the Examiner comments in item 9 on page 5 of the Office action, claim 1 has been amended with the features of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled.

In items 7 and 8 on pages 3 and 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 9 and 10 have been rejected as being

obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 9 and 10 depend on amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable and therefore claims 9 and 10 are also believed to be allowable.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the Examiner comments in item 9 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11-15 have been put in independent form all incorporating the limitations of claim 1. The application now contains 11 independent claims. Please find enclosed a check for \$688.00 for the 8 excess independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-19 are solicited.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner

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and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

REL:cgm

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